Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 040210 Z JUL 73 FM USLO PEKING TO SECSTATE WASHDC 358

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, CH

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION ARRIVES PEKING

1. PRC HAS SO FAR TREATED ARRIVAL OF CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN SUCH LOW KEY AS TO BE BARELY AUDIBLE. RANKING OFFICIALS AT AIRPORT WERE CHOU CHIU- YEH, VICE PRESIDENT OF CPIFA, AND LIEN KUAN, NPC STANDING COMMITTEE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL. ALTHOUGH THEIR PROTOCOL RANKING CORRECT FOR OCCASION, NEITHER OF THESE GENTLEMEN PARTICULARLY PROMINENT. LIEN, IN FACT, APPEARS TO HAVE SO LITTLE ACTUAL STANDING THAT HIS AGED CAR WAS NOT MADE PART OF DEPARTURE MOTORCADE, BUT CHUGGED AWAY LAST AFTER EVERYONE

BUT THE MOST JUNIOR USLO OFFICERS HAD LEFT. BY CONTRAST, THE HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS DELEGATION, A PRIVATE GROUP WHICH ARRIVED AT ROUGHLY THE SAME TIME, WAS GREETED BY MORE DISTINGUISHED FIGURES, INCLUDING ACADEMICA SINICA VICE PRESIDENT WU YU- HSUN AND CPIFA VICE PRESIDENT CHOU PEI- YUAN. DELEGATION MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY MAGNUSON, SOMEWHAT MIFFED BY RECEPTION.

- 2. THERE HAS BEEN NO DOMESTIC PRESS COVERAGE YET, NOT EVEN THE USUAL PERFUNCTORY ONE LINER IN THE "PEOPLES DAILY", WHICH BY CONTRAST THE HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS GROUP RECEIVED.
- 3. THE CPIFA HAVE CUT CHENGTU AND YENAN FROM THE SUGGESTED ITINERARY, OFFERING SOOCHOW AND WUHSI INSTEAD AND ADDING A DAY IN PEKING. THEY EXPLAINED TO KOROLOGOS, SOLOMON, AND ROMBERG THAT CHENGTU WAS CLOSED TO FOREIGNERS (SERVICE AND ALSOP WENT THERE, SOLOMON POINTED OUT) AND THAT AIR CONNECTIONS FOR YENAN TOO CONFIDENTIAL

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UNRELIABLE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR (TRUE).

- 4. COMMENT: WHILE WE EXPECT BOTH MEDIA COVERAGE AND ARRANGEMENTS TO IMPROVE, CHINESE APPEAR TO BE MAKING POINT, IN PUBLIC AT LEAST, THAT PEOPLE- TO- PEOPLE CONTACTS WITH U. S. AS IMPORTANT OR MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THAT WITH OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT GROUPS.
- 5. PROOF OF PUDDING WILL BE IN LEVEL OF OFFICIALS DELEGATION PERMITTED TO SEE. CHINESE TOLD BY KOROLOGOS AND SOLOMON OF IMPORTANCE PRESIDENT ATTACHES TO SUCCESS OF THIS TRIP, AND NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL COOPERATION TO SPEED NORMALIZATION OF SINO- US RELATIONS. THEY ALSO INFORMED OF DELEGATION'S DESIRE TO TALK SUBSTANCE WITH RANKING OFFICIALS ON TRADE, CIVIAL AVIATION, INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, AND MARITIME MATTERS.
 BRUCE

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

^{***} Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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